

ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT APPROVAL _____

STATE BOARD MEETING DATE September 22, 2008

SUBJECT: Determination of Passing Score for the Test of English As a Foreign Language (TOEFL) _____

SUBMITTED BY: Jan Amator, Deputy Associate Superintendent Highly Qualified Professionals Unit _____

MANAGEMENT TEAM REVIEW: September 4, 2008

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

At its May 19, 2008 meeting, the State Board of Education approved R7-2-612(K) the Provisional Foreign Teacher Teaching Certificate. One of the requirements of this certificate is to demonstrate fluency in English as verified by a passing score on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). The passing score shall be determined by the Board using the results of validity and reliability studies. This certificate becomes effective October 1, 2008. If the Board has not adopted a passing score at that time, we must accept proof of taking the exam as a passing score on the exam.

The TOEFL is administered by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) and not Pearson-NES, the testing vendor with whom we have our contract. Staff from the Highly Qualified Professionals Unit and the Office of English Language Acquisition Services reviewed the data received from ETS and recommend the following passing score and process for validation:

Proposed passing score:

Based on data from the Educational Testing Service (ETS), applicants for a Professional License for foreign candidates are required to have a minimum composite score of 84 out of 120

In addition to a composite score, it is recommended that Arizona set a minimum score for each individual section of the TOEFL based on the prioritized skill levels needed by teachers

- the Reading section passing score be 20/30
- the Listening section passing score be 22/30
- the Speaking section passing score be 21/30
- the Writing section passing score be 21/30

Outline of Process:

1. Set proposed minimum section scores as stated above
2. Recruit 5-10 teachers from foreign countries teaching in Arizona public schools to take the TOEFL as soon as possible
3. State pays for the testing of these pilot teachers - \$150 per teacher

4. Review scores of pilot teachers and compare to proposed passing scores
5. Plan with OELAS to visit the pilot teachers and score each teachers' language ability on a rubric similar to the TOEFL test
6. Compare pilot teacher's TOEFL scores and rubric scores from the on-site visit
7. Determine validity of proposed passing scores
8. Re-evaluate after one year

**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED: [] INFORMATION [X] ACTION/DESCRIBED
BELOW**

The State Board approve the recommended passing scores and validation process for the TOEFL examination

ATTACHMENTS: YES [] NO [X]